

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 11-13, 16 and 17 have been amended. In view of the following, it is respectfully submitted that all of the currently unallowed claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 1-13 and 15-18 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) As Being Anticipated
By Fletcher

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a first member operable to be attached to a chassis and defining a slot, the chassis having a first connector, and a second member operable to be attached to a side of a sub assembly that is installable in the chassis and includes a second connector, the second member having a lip and operable to rotate about an axis normal to the side to engage the slot with the lip, wherein engagement of the slot with the lip causes the second connector to engage the first connector.

For example, referring, e.g., to FIGS. 1-4 and paragraphs 14-17 of the present application, a sub-assembly 1 is inserted into a chassis 2. A sub-assembly connector 3 is disposed at the rear of the sub-assembly 1 and a chassis connector 4 is attached to the inside of the back of the chassis 2. The sub-assembly 1 is inserted into the chassis 2. A latch 5 is loosely attached to the front (side) of the sub-assembly 1. A latch bracket 10 with a slot is rigidly attached to the front of the chassis 2. A latch lip 6 is moved into the slot on the latch bracket 10 by a counter-clockwise rotation of the latch 5 about an axis normal to the front of the sub-assembly. The latch 5 starts a pre-loading process with the latch lip 6 in the latch slot at a slight angle. Once the latch lip 6 is in place, the latch 5 attempts to straighten itself. As the latch 5 straightens, the latch lip 6 pushes against the outside edge of the latch slot in the latch bracket 10. This causes a moment inward and, when seated, pre-loads the sub-assembly connector 3 and the chassis connector 4.

Fletcher, on the other hand, fails to teach the limitations recited in claim 1. Fletcher, at, e.g., FIGS. 4-5 and col. 4, line 50 to col. 5, line 35, teaches a circuit board injector/ejector device 31 comprising a body 32 which is fixedly secured to a composite front plate 14 (sub-assembly side) and a lever 33 (second member) which

is pivotally mounted on the body about a horizontal pivotal axis 34. As such, the lever 33 of Fletcher does not rotate about an axis normal to the front plate 14.

Claims 8, 11 and 16

Claims 8, 11 and 16 are patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1.

Claims 2-7, 9-10, 12-13, 15 and 17-18

Claims 2-7, 9-10, 12-13, 15 and 17-18 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from claims 1, 8, 11 and 16.

Rejection of Claims 14 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) As Being Unpatentable

Over Fletcher In View of Frank, Jr. ("Frank")

Frank fails to supply the teachings missing from Fletcher, namely a first member operable to be attached to a chassis and defining a slot, the chassis having a first connector, and a second member operable to be attached to a side of a sub assembly that is installable in the chassis and includes a second connector, the second member having a lip and operable to rotate about an axis normal to the side to engage the slot with the lip, wherein engagement of the slot with the lip causes the second connector to engage the first connector. Accordingly, Fletcher and Frank, taken either each alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the limitations recited in claim 11. As such, claims 14 and 15 are patentable by virtue of their dependency from claim 11.

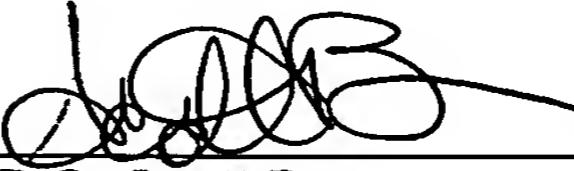
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (425) 455-5575. If the Examiner does not agree that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact

the undersigned to arrange a discussion of the application prior to issuing a second Office action.

Respectfully submitted,
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